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Bezeichnung der Erfindung/Title of the invention/Titre de l'invention:  
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If no title is shown please refer to the description.  
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Lamp pulse compensation in scrolling colour type projection system

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04. 10. 2002



The present invention relates to a scrolling colour projection system comprising a pulsed lamp and a colour scanner for generating a light beam with a plurality of scrolling colour fields, arranged to illuminate a display device to produce a projection of an image generated by the display device.

5

Such projection systems are particular in that light from a light source is divided into a plurality of beams, which are sequentially scrolled over a display device, e.g., a reflective LCD, and then projected by means of a lens. Normally, the three beams (R, G, B) are arranged to form three horizontal bars with a total height large enough to cover the reflective display. The bars are scrolled, e.g., from top to bottom, and are synchronized with the display so that they complete a scrolling sequence within one picture frame.

In such projector systems, it is advantageous to use a light source, e.g., a UHP (ultra high performance) lamp from Philips, having a superposed current pulse to stabilize the arc position. In a scrolling colour type of projection system, such a current pulse may interfere with the colour scanner and result in visible interference patterns in the projected image. In principle, the pulse acts as a stroboscope, highlighting a momentary image of the scanner, and may make interference patterns in the form of colour bars or the intermediate fields (spokes) visible on the screen. If the pulse frequency is a sub-frequency of the frame rate, the interference pattern will be fixed, and if the lamp frequency is out of phase with the frame rate, the bars will roll across the screen.

An object of the present invention is to provide a scrolling colour projector system having a reduced image interference.

This object is achieved with a projector according to the invention as specified in claim 1.

The filtering element thus effectively removes the impact of the current pulse on the light intensity, resulting in a constant intensity in the projected image. Therefore, the mentioned interference patterns does not occur.

The filtering element can be located anywhere along the light-path, for example after the projection lens, or before the colour scanner. A filtering element located near the lamp must have good resistivity in order to withstand the higher light intensity. A filtering element located close to the display must be free from distortion (e.g. particles on the surface) as such distortions may be visible in the projected image. Another factor is the size of the filtering element, which varies along the light path.

According to one embodiment, the filtering element is a liquid crystal (LC) cell. The transmission of the cell is then controlled so as to be synchronized with the lamp current and adjusted in accordance with the size of the peak in light intensity, so as to accomplish the constant intensity. In order to secure a long life-time, the LC cell is preferably placed after the projection lens, where the light intensity is lower.

According to another embodiment, the filtering element is a rotating disc having a field with reduced transmission. The frequency of said wheel is synchronized with the lamp current, so that the field crosses the light-path when the peak in intensity occurs. By adapting the transmission if the field in accordance with the size of the peak, a constant light intensity can be obtained.

This and other aspects of the invention will be apparent from the preferred embodiments more clearly described with reference to the appended drawings.

Fig 1 is a schematic view of a scrolling colour projection system according to prior art.

Fig 2 shows a scanner output of the projection system in fig 1.

Fig 3 is a diagram of a current waveform for a UHP lamp with pulsed arc stabilisation.

Fig 4 is a diagram of a lamp flux output corresponding to the current in fig 3.

Fig 5 is a schematic view of a scrolling colour projection system according to a first embodiment of the invention.

Fig 6 is a schematic view of a scrolling colour projection system according to a second embodiment of the invention.

Fig 7 shows the rotating density filter of the embodiment in fig 6.

A projection system with scrolling colour scanning according to prior art, also referred to as a Scrolling Colour Sequential (SCS) system, is illustrated in fig 1. The system comprises an display driver 1, arranged to receive a data input stream 2, from e.g. a personal computer or a video cassette recorder (not shown), and to drive a display device 3, such as a reflective LCD. A light source 4, preferably a UHP lamp followed by an integrator, is controlled by a lamp driver 12 to generate a light beam 5a, which passes through a colour scanner (6, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9). The colour scanner converts the light beam 5a from the lamp 4 into a beam 5b having a plurality of differently coloured fields, typically three colour bars (R, G, B), continuously scrolling from top to bottom (see fig 2).

In the example illustrated in fig 1, a first set of mirrors 6 divide the beam 5a into three beams 7a, 7b, 7c. These beams are guided through three scanning prisms 8a, 8b, 8c (red, green and blue), and a second set of mirrors 9 recombine the beams into one beam 5b, as described above. The mirrors 6, 9 and the prisms 8a, 8b, 8c together form the colour scanner.

The beam 5b with scrolling colour bars 23 is directed onto the display device 3, and an image generated by the display device 3 is reflected back into a polarizing beam splitter (PBS) 10. The PBS 10 directs the reflected image to a projection lens 11, for projection onto a suitable screen (not shown).

The scanning performed by the colour scanner 8a, 8b, 8c is synchronized with the frame rate of the video data 2, so that the colour bars 23 of the beam 5b complete a scrolling sequence (return to original position) in one frame period  $T_F$ . This is illustrated in fig 2.

The diagram in fig 3 shows a typical current waveform 20 with period  $T_L$  in the UHP lamp 4, including a pulse 21 to stabilize the arc position. The diagram in fig 4 shows the corresponding lamp flux 22 from the projection lamp 4, which is essentially the rectified waveform 20 in fig 3. As is clear from fig 4, the lamp flux 22 comprises a DC flux with a superimposed AC light flux, resulting from the stabilizing pulse 21. As a consequence from the rectification, the period  $T_{AC}$  of the AC component is only half of  $T_L$ , i.e. the pulse frequency is twice the lamp frequency.

As mentioned above, the AC light flux resulting from the stabilization pulse acts as a fictive light source, and causes a stroboscopic effect on the colour scanner 8a, 8b, 8c. When the frequency of this AC component of the light flux (referred to as the pulse

frequency) is a sub-harmonic of the display frame rate frequency, the colour bars 23 can be 'captured' by the stroboscopic effect, resulting in visible colour bars in the projected image. When lamp frequency and frame rate frequency are locked, the visible bars are fixed in one position. If they are not locked (i.e. a-synchronic), the visible bars will be scrolling over the screen because lamp and scanner are a-synchronic. The phase between lamp frequency and frame rate frequency determines the position of the colour bars on the screen.

A first embodiment is illustrated in fig 5. A filtering element in the form of a liquid crystal (LC) cell 31 is arranged in the light-path between the lamp and the projection of the image, in this case after the projection lens 11. The LC-cell is controlled by a drive voltage 32, which is synchronized with the lamp current 20 by means of a synchronization unit 33. In other words, the synchronization unit 33 is connected to the lamp driver 12 and to the LC cell 31.

The synchronization unit 33 is adapted to control the LC cell in such a way that the variable transmission, which is a function of the voltage 32, is decreased when a stabilization pulse 21 occurs in the lamp current 20, and a peak occurs in the lamp flux 22. The decrease in transmission is adapted to compensate for the increase in intensity present during the peak, and, as a result, the peak is cancelled and not visible in the projected image. This leads to a constant intensity in the projected image, and any interference patterns are avoided.

A second embodiment is illustrated in fig 6 and 7. In this case, the filtering element is a rotating disc 41, made of a transparent material and having a neutral density grey filter 42 patterned onto its surface. The disc 41 is here arranged before the colour scanner mirrors 6, but another location may also be found advantageous. As shown in fig 7, the filter field 42 can be a sector of the disc 41, but may also comprise two or more sectors and/or have a different shape.

A synchronization unit 43 is connected to the lamp driver 12 and to a disc controller 44. The synchronization unit 43 is adapted to control the disc controller 44 to rotate the disc 42 with a phase and frequency such that the shaded filter field 42 passes the light path when a peak occurs in the lamp flux 22. Further, the transmission of the shaded field 43 is adapted to compensate the increase in light intensity present during the peak, and, as a result, the peak is cancelled and not visible in the projected image.

It is clear that the detailed description above is related to two specific embodiments of the invention, and that these embodiments do not restrict the scope of the appended claims. More specifically, the scrolling projection system can be modified by the

skilled man without departing from the inventive concept. For example, the colour scanner can be of a different type than the one schematically illustrated in the drawings. Also, other filtering elements may be envisaged, and be placed at other locations along the light path.

## CLAIMS:

04.10.2002



1. A scrolling colour projection system, comprising  
a lamp with a pulsed drive current and  
a colour scanner for generating a light beam with a plurality of scrolling colour  
fields,  
5 said light beam being arranged to illuminate a display device to produce a  
projection of an image generated by the display device,  
characterized in that a filtering element is arranged in the light-path between  
the lamp and the projected image, the transmission of said filtering element being  
synchronized with the lamp current so as to cancel an intensity peak in the lamp flux.  
10
2. A scrolling colour projection system according to claim 1, further comprising  
a synchronization unit for synchronizing said filtering element with the lamp.
3. A scrolling colour projection system according to claim 1, comprising a  
15 projecting lens for projecting said image, wherein said filtering element is arranged after said  
projecting lens.
4. A scrolling colour projection system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said  
filtering element is arranged before said colour scanner.  
20
5. A scrolling colour projection system according to claim 1 - 3, wherein said  
filtering element is a liquid crystal cell.
6. A scrolling colour projection system according to claim 1 - 3, wherein said  
25 filtering element is a rotating disc having a field with reduced transmission.
7. A scrolling colour projection system according to claim 6, said disc being  
transparent except for at least one sector shaped field.



## ABSTRACT:

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(99)

A scrolling colour projection system, comprising a lamp (4) with a pulsed drive current (20) and a colour scanner (6, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9) for generating a light beam (5b) with a plurality of scrolling colour fields, which is arranged to illuminate a display device (3) to produce a projection of an image generated by the display device. The system further  
5 includes a filtering element (31) arranged in the light-path between the lamp and the projected image, and the transmission of the filtering element (31) is synchronized with the lamp current so as to cancel an intensity peak in the lamp flux.

The filtering element thus effectively removes the impact of the current pulse on the light intensity, resulting in a constant intensity in the projected image, and avoiding  
10 any interference patterns.

Fig. 5

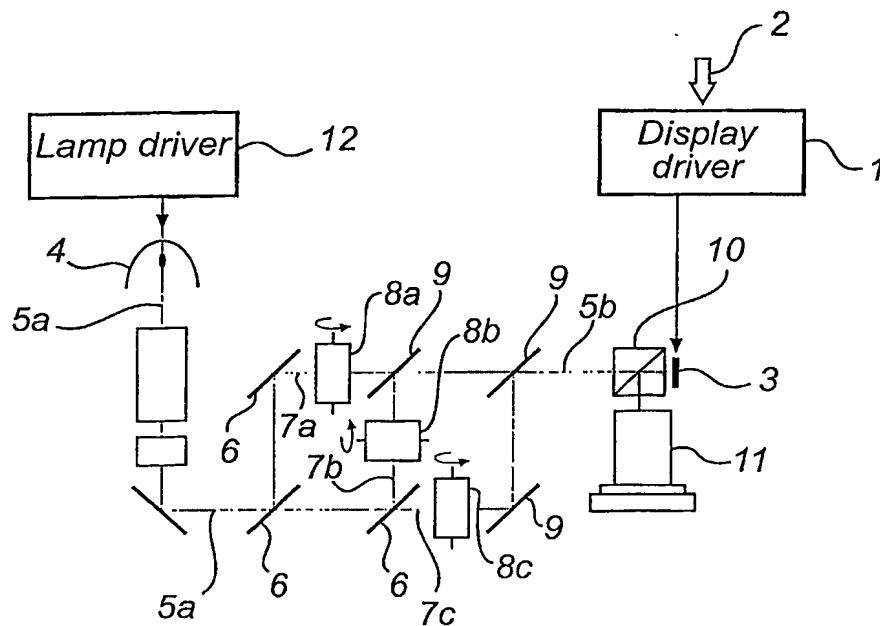


FIG. 1

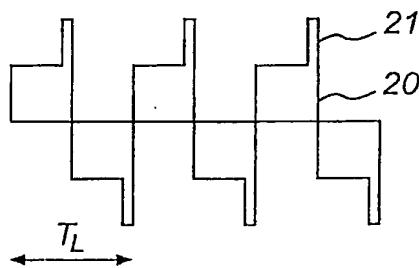


FIG. 3

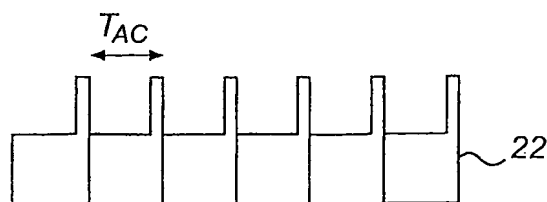


FIG. 4

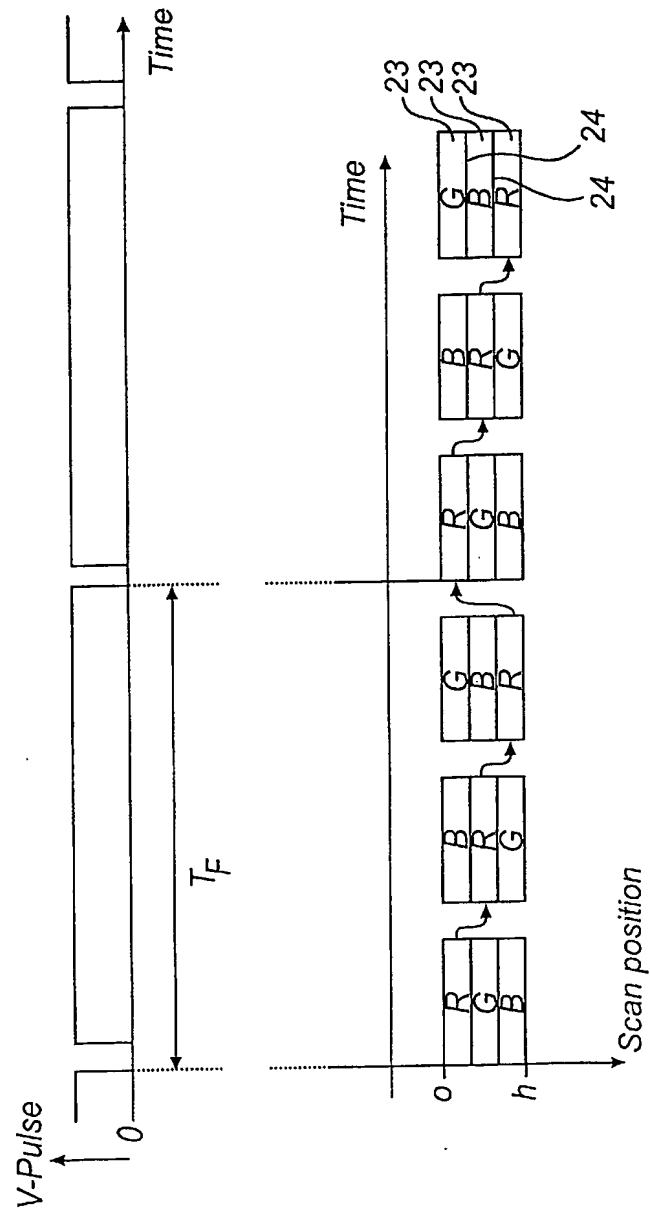


FIG.2

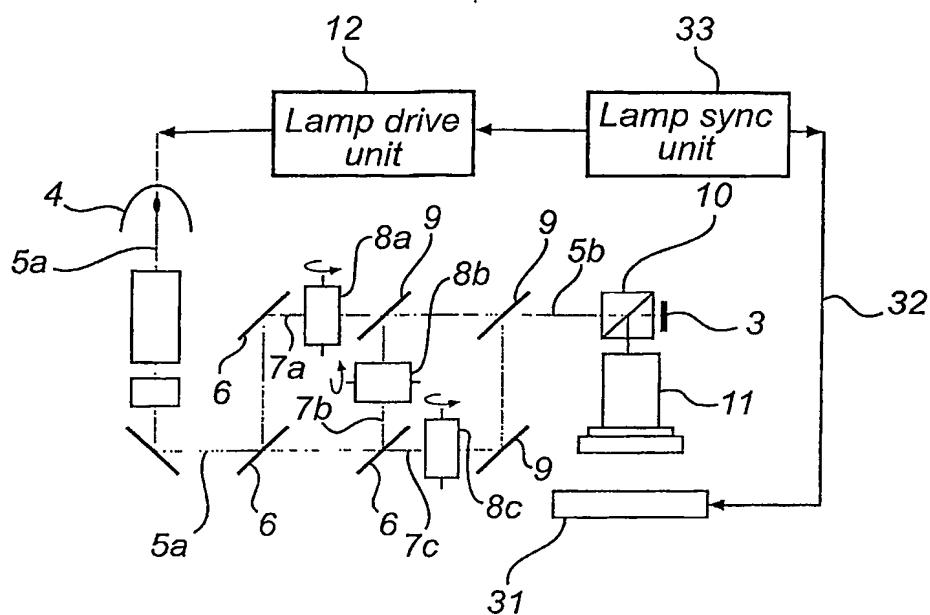


FIG.5

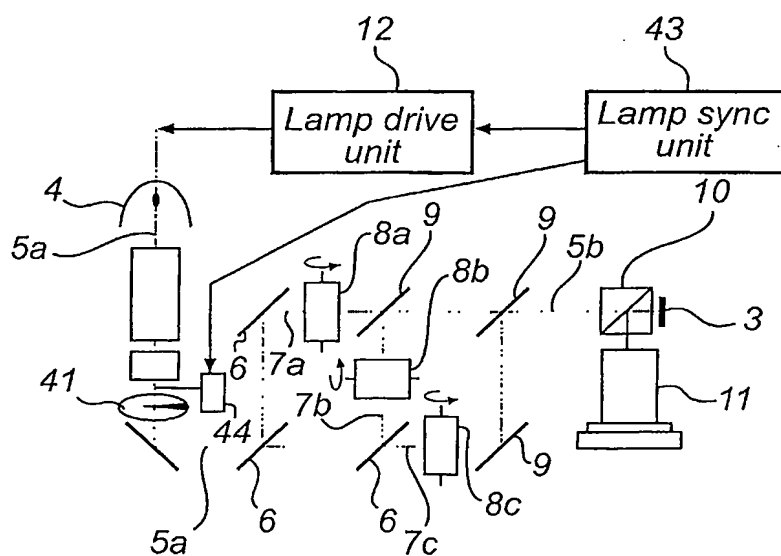


FIG. 6

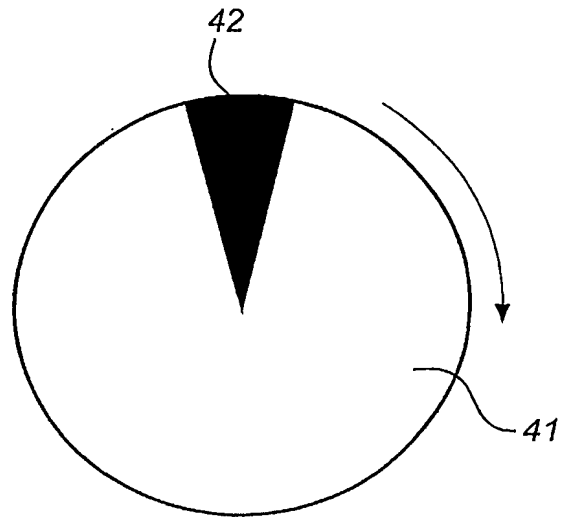


FIG.7

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